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NPIC/D-18/71
19 January 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

File: Cuba

SUBJECT : Summary of Soviet Naval Activity at Cienfuegos, Cuba,
from OLD HEAD Photography [redacted]

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1. The attached report is a summary of Soviet naval activity and other possibly related activities at Cienfuegos, Cuba, as observed on OLD HEAD photography [redacted]

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[redacted] By direction, dissemination of this information was restricted to senior officials in the Washington area during the period of [redacted] For this reason, it was excluded from the immediate photographic interpretation reports (IPIRs) for OLD HEAD [redacted] This restriction has now been lifted.

2. The attached summary is organized in three parts: (a) activity of the Soviet naval task group at Cienfuegos, described chronologically by OLD HEAD mission; (b) other activity observed at Cienfuegos; (c) movements of two of the Soviet vessels observed at Mariel Port during [redacted]

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[redacted]
Executive Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachment

Recapitulation of Photo Reconnaissance over Cienfuegos, Cuba,
[redacted]

SUBJECT: Summary of Soviet Naval Activity at Cienfuegos, Cuba, from
OLD HEAD Photography [REDACTED]

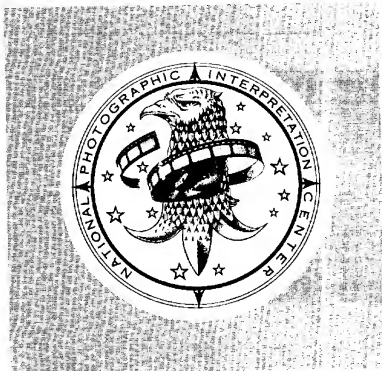
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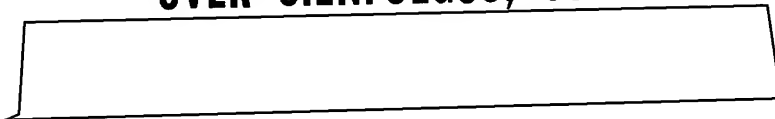
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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

SUMMARY

RECAPITULATION OF PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE OVER CIENFUEGOS, CUBA



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NPIC/R-72/70
DECEMBER 1970

WARNING

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RECAPITULATION OF PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE OVER CIENFUEGOS, CUBA

A. SOVIET NAVAL TASK GROUP

1. The Soviet Naval Task Group was first observed on OLD HEAD photography at Cienfuegos Port Facilities [redacted] and Cienfuegos Naval Base [redacted]. The task group included the following ships: one Kresta I-class guided-missile light cruiser (CLGM), one Alligator landing ship tank (LST), one Ugra-class submarine tender (AS), one Sura-class buoy tender (AGL), the tanker Liyepaya, one Okhtenskiy-class ocean rescue tug (ATR), and two special-purpose barges. The Sura AGL was apparently engaged in buoy-placement activity near the mouth of Cienfuegos Bay.

2. Photography of [redacted] revealed that the task group remained at Cienfuegos. The vessels remained in the same positions as when observed on [redacted] with the exception of the Sura AGL, which was moored stern to O'Burke Pier near the bow of the Alligator LST. The Sura AGL appeared to be on or offloading probable buoy anchors. The two special-purpose barges previously observed at Cienfuegos naval base were in a position at O'Burke Pier between the Alligator LST and the Sura AGL. (These barges are believed to have been transported to Cuba aboard the Alligator LST. Bottom chocks on which the barges rested remained on the deck of the LST.)

3. The Ugra AS was observed approaching and later moored fast to a four-buoy mooring site, in water approximately 15 meters (50 feet) deep in Cienfuegos Bay, at a position approximately 1 nautical mile (nm) north of Cayo Alcatraz. Submarine nets had been emplaced [redacted] across the approach to the deep-water basin in which the mooring site and the submarine tender were situated. The Alligator LST was at the POL pier. The Sura AGL and the tanker Liyepaya were at anchor in the northern bay. The Kresta I CLGM and the Kanin DDG had departed from Cienfuegos.

4. The two special-purpose barges, formerly at O'Burke Pier, were tied to the port quarter of the Ugra AS at the four-point mooring site. A probable personnel launch and two small craft were tied to the starboard side of the tender amidships. A third and fourth section of the submarine net had been added, thus completing the net. The entire net extended approximately 422 meters (1,330 feet). On the first and second passes of the mission, one section of the net was open to seaward, and on the third and fourth passes, the same section was open toward the Ugra AS. In all instances the Okhtenskiy ATR was tending the net.

5. The Ugra AS was at the four-point mooring site. The net was open toward the Ugra AS. The two special-purposes barges were at O'Burke Pier. An Uda-class naval oiler (AO) was observed at anchor.

6. The Ugra AS, the Okhtenskiy ATR, and the two special-purpose barges were at O'Burke Pier. The Alligator LST and the Sura AGL had apparently departed.

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[REDACTED]

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7. The Uda AO, the Ugra AS, the Okhtenskiy ATR, and the two barges were at O'Burke Pier.

[REDACTED]

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8. The Ugra AS, the Okhtenskiy ATR, and the two special-purpose barges remained at O'Burke Pier. The Uda AO had moved [REDACTED] and was at anchor in the western part of the bay.

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[REDACTED]

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9. No change in the positions of the vessels concerned had occurred

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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10. The Okhtenskiy ATR was observed near O'Burke Pier and later underway within the harbor. It was towing the two special-purpose barges side by side along its port side. The Ugra AS was at O'Burke Pier. A launch had been loaded aboard the Ugra AS during the time [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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11. The Ugra AS and the Okhtenskiy ATR had departed Cienfuegos. The Uda AO was at O'Burke Pier and the two special-purpose barges had been moved to a small pier at Cayo Ocampo, at the southeastern corner of Cienfuegos Bay.

[REDACTED]

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12. No significant naval activity was observed at Cienfuegos during this period. The submarine net remained unchanged, and the two special-purpose barges remained at Cayo Ocampo.

[REDACTED]

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13. The two barges remained at Cayo Ocampo. The Soviet Space Event Support Ship (SSESS) Kosmonaut Vladimir Komarov was tied to all four buoys at the four-point mooring site.

[REDACTED]

14. No change in the locations of the two barges and the SSESS was observed. The submarine net was unchanged.

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15. The numbers and types of Cuban naval combatants were relatively constant at Cienfuegos during the period between [REDACTED] Three to four Kronshtadt submarine chasers (PC), two to three SO-1 submarine chasers (SC), and three to four P-6 motor torpedo boats (PT) were present most of the time.

B. OTHER ACTIVITY IN THE CIENFUEGOS BAY AREA

Coastal Surveillance Site

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16. Two SHEET BEND radars and one probable SQUARE HEAD antenna with associated vehicles or pieces of equipment, in a probable coastal surveillance role, were situated at Cienfuegos Radar Facility 2 [REDACTED] approximately 1.8 nm east of the entrance to Cienfuegos Bay. The facility was occupied on [REDACTED]

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Possible Communications Facility Under Construction

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[REDACTED]

18. New road construction was progressing at a steady rate southeast from Cienfuegos toward Punta de la Cueva and the possible communications facility under construction. The road extends southeast from an existing road at a point 0.5 nm south-southwest of Jaime Gonzales Airfield [REDACTED]

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Recreation Facilities, Cayo Alcatraz

19. Diverse recreational facilities and new barracks were constructed on Cayo Alcatraz, an island located near the harbor entrance in Cienfuegos Bay, at 22-04-35N 080-26-40W. Extensive construction of facilities was accomplished [REDACTED] when no construction activity was evident, and [REDACTED] when construction was virtually complete. The newly constructed facilities included two barracks-type buildings, a soccer field, and tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts. A pier on the western side of the island was improved and expanded to create an enclosed probable swimming area. No significant activity or changes to facilities has been observed on recent missions.

Luna Punta Landing Beach Defenses

20. Grading along the beach was underway during the entire period from [REDACTED]. Progress was very slow and the purpose of the beach leveling was not apparent [REDACTED]. A cluster of four shallow, revetted, probable coastal defense positions was constructed at 22-02-04N 080-25-12W on Luna Punta Beach [REDACTED] when they were first observed.

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Air Defenses

21. Three unrevetted six-position AAA sites dispersed throughout the Cienfuegos area were occupied [REDACTED]. One site, located at 22-04-10N 080-28-00W on the west side of the harbor entrance, was first observed occupied on photography [REDACTED]. Another site, on Punta Movita at 22-04-10N 080-26-19W, was first observed occupied on [REDACTED]. When observed [REDACTED] three positions were vacant. The third occupied six-position AAA site was located on Punta Soriano at 22-06-50N 080-25-08W.

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22. A fourth AAA site, occupied for a brief period [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was located adjacent to the latter site.

23. Constancia SAM Site [REDACTED] 6.5 nm northwest of Cienfuegos remained occupied, as it normally is, during the entire period.

Field Artillery Deployment

24. Field artillery pieces (FA) were observed at two locations near the entrance to Cienfuegos Bay [REDACTED]. Approximately 2 nm east of the entrance, at 22-02-10N 080-25-16W, five FA pieces were observed in the vicinity of Luna Punta Beach on [REDACTED]. Approximately 3 nm west of the harbor entrance, at 22-04-12N 080-30-18W, four FA pieces were observed on [REDACTED] and five FA pieces were seen on [REDACTED]

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Probable Field Artillery Firing Range

25. A probable direct-fire field artillery range has been recently constructed on Punta Luna, at 22-01-55N 080-24-50W, approximately 2.5 nm east of the entrance to Cienfuegos Bay. The probable range is approximately 10 meters (33 feet) above mean sea level, oriented north/south, and measures approximately 638 meters (2,093 feet) in length. At the northern end where three circular firing positions have been constructed, it measures [REDACTED] in

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width, and at the southern end it measures [] in width.

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Shoreline Clearance South of Cayo Alcatraz

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26. Clearing of vegetation and grading were first observed [] along the irregular shoreline of the southern edge of Cienfuegos Bay, just east of the inner entrance to the bay. [] the cleared area measured approximately 1,189 meters (3,900 feet) along the shoreline by 76 meters (250 feet) inland. Fifteen light-toned unidentified objects equally spaced, were aligned near the shoreline when the cleared area was observed on []. No significant change had occurred along the shoreline [].

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New Construction Northeast of Punta Gorda

27. An area of construction activity at 22-07-40N 080-26-34W, on the southern edge of Cienfuegos, 0.8 nm northeast of Punta Gorda, was first observed on photography of [] an area [] had been graded and six holes for footings were observed. Piles of construction materials were in the area.

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C. MOVEMENTS OF THE UGRA AS AND OKHTENSKIY ATR AT MARIEL PORT

28. The Ugra AS and the Okhtenskiy ATR which left Cienfuegos after being seen on photography [] were next observed at Mariel Port on photography []. Subsequently, their positions were as follows:

29. The Ugra AS was at the north pier in Mariel Port, and the Okhtenskiy ATR was tied to one of the buoys at the four-point mooring site in Mariel harbor.

30. The Ugra AS was just south of the four-point mooring site in Mariel harbor. The Okhtenskiy ATR remained at the mooring site.

31. The Ugra AS was in mid-Mariel harbor and the Okhtenskiy ATR was at the north pier.

32. Both the Ugra and the Okhtenskiy were at the north pier at Mariel.

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